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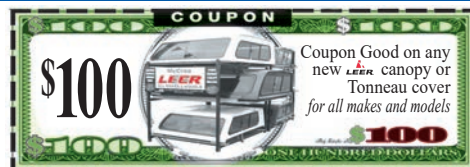
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What Type Of Law Enforcement Work Do CDFW's K-9 Teams Do?



CDFW

CDFW K-9s

Q: What type of law enforcement work do California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) K-9 teams do?

A: Established in 2006, CDFW's K-9 program currently has 16 teams working across the state in just about every law enforcement area within the department, including cannabis enforcement, marine enforcement and CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the state's lead for response to oil spills.

K-9s help wildlife officers enforce the many laws in our state related to the protection of natural resources. CDFW's K-9s are primarily used for their detection abilities which allow them to sniff out evidence, illegally harvested game, narcotics, contraband and invasive species like quagga mussels. CDFW K-9s also serve as part of dual-purpose teams and, in addition to detection, are utilized to help protect wildlife officers and apprehend suspects. A K-9 can serve as a wildlife officer's primary backup when no one else is available. All CDFW's K-9 teams can also be used in search and rescue to help locate missing persons or suspects at large.

K-9s are also an outstanding public re-

lations tool and are often used in schools and public events to bridge the gap between community and law enforcement. The K-9 program is a tremendous asset to CDFW's Law Enforcement Division in performance of its mission.

Fishing Question

Q: I recently went on a fishing trip with a group of friends on a commercial fishing boat out of the Bay Area. The boat captain checked to make sure we all had fishing licenses and explained that he could get a ticket for letting unlicensed anglers fish off his boat. If I let someone fish off my personal boat who doesn't have a license, would I get a ticket too?

A: No. Operators of Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels are held to a higher standard than private boat owners and must comply with California Fish and Game Code (FGC) section 7920, which deals with Commercial Passenger Fishing Boat Licenses. FGC section 7920 states: The owner of any boat or vessel who, for profit, permits any person to take fish, shall procure a commercial passenger fishing boat license. This article applies only to a boat or vessel whose owner or his or her employee or other

representative is with it when it is used for fishing. A person operating a guide boat, as defined in FGC section 46, is not required to obtain a commercial passenger fishing boat license.

Furthermore, FGC section 7147 describes the license requirements for persons fishing from boat or vessel, which are: The owner or operator of a boat or vessel licensed pursuant to FGC section 7920 shall not permit any person to fish from that boat or vessel unless that person has, in his or her possession, a valid California sport fishing license and any required stamp, report card, or validation issued pursuant to this code.

To recap: As a private boat owner, if you let someone fish from your boat without a fishing license, you would not be subject to FGC section 7147. Of course, we encourage you to make sure your private boat's fishing passengers have fishing licenses anyway!

CDFW Authority

Q: When an animal is injured or sick, what gives CDFW the authority to euthanize it versus releasing it and letting it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 →

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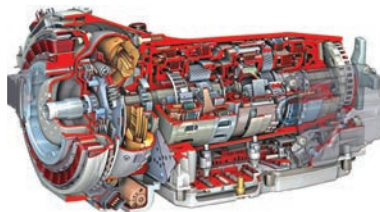
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California Outdoors Q&A

← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

die naturally?

A: The decision to euthanize a wild animal is one of the more difficult decisions CDFW makes as the trustee of California's fish and wildlife. CDFW's mission is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. The majority of that effort is related to the improvement, preservation or management of habitat. To that end, CDFW's primary goal is fish and wildlife population stabilization and management of those populations to the benefit of the species, and the public's enjoyment of those species.

When a sick or injured animal presents itself, often stemming from a report from the public, CDFW scientific staff and wildlife officers have a lot to think about as we assess the situation. If the animal is injured but has even a minimal chance at surviving, CDFW typically gives it a chance to survive on its own. However, if the animal has suffered mortal injury or is suffering from some terminal illness and is going to die, then staff may humanely euthanize the animal to end its suffering and sometimes to stop spread of a disease.

FGC section 1001 entrusts and provides CDFW with the authorization to make these decisions. The statute states: Nothing in this code or any other law shall prohibit the department from taking, for scientific, propagation, public health or safety, prevention or relief of suffering, or law enforcement purposes, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds and the nests and eggs thereof, or any other form of plant or animal life.



If you have a question you would like to see answered in the California Outdoors Q and A column, email it to CalOutdoors@wildlife.ca.gov.

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Under general supervision, plans, organizes, coordinates, and provides direction and oversight for a community services program; coordinates programs which include youth sports, adult sports, summer programs, special interest classes, special events, and other related community activities; performs a variety of administrative functions in support of assigned programs and performs related work as necessary. Requirements include equivalent to 12th grade plus college-level coursework in recreation, early childhood education and 3 years work experience in community services including 1 year of supervisory experience. For more information and to apply online, go to www.ci.eureka.ca.gov

Application deadline is 5:00pm on Monday, December 27th. EOE

SAFETY



© Mariakray / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Driving in a Winter Wonderland: 5 Safety Tips

(STATEPOINT) Though the winter season has its joys, it also brings unique challenges — especially when venturing out in hazardous weather.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of all weather-related vehicle crashes happen on snowy, slushy and icy pavement, while 15 percent occur during snowfall or sleet. Here are five tips to protect yourself, your loved ones and your vehicle this season.

1. Invest in winter tires. Snow and

ice can turn roads into a slippery nightmare, posing a real threat for drivers. Winter tires, also known as snow tires, are uniquely designed to increase traction in these conditions and can help avoid accidents.

2. Clear snow and ice before hitting the road. Though it can be tempting not to, especially when you're in a rush, you should always fully scrape your vehicle's windows and remove snow from its surface before driving. Leaving ice and snow to melt is more dangerous

than you might think. It can slide down the windshield and block your view of the road, or even fly into nearby traffic, causing damage or obstructing the vision of other drivers.

3. Keep your distance. Ever heard of the “three-second rule”? Experts recommend leaving three seconds of distance between your vehicle and those ahead of you. To do this, watch the car ahead of you pass a landmark, then count to three. It should be at least three seconds before your car reaches the landmark. When the roads are slick or icy, be sure to widen the gap. Should you need to stop suddenly, the extra space will lower your chances of a collision.

4. Slow down! A recent national survey by Erie Insurance found that one in 10 drivers admitted to driving at extreme speeds (20 mph or more over the speed limit) during the early months of the pandemic, and many respondents say drivers are still going way faster than normal. Speeding is always dangerous and can be even more hazardous when roads are icy, making it harder to control the vehicle and avoid skidding. If your vehicle begins to skid, turn the steering wheel towards the direction you need to go.

5. Monitor and improve driving behaviors. Identify bad habits and become a safer driver year-round with a smartphone app like YourTurn from Erie Insurance. YourTurn analyzes behaviors such as hard braking, speeding and phone use, and offers incentives for safe driving through rewards that can be redeemed for gift cards or donated to charity.

“It’s especially important to be mindful of your driving behavior in the winter time,” says Jon Bloom, vice president of personal auto at Erie Insurance. “By incentivizing safe driving habits, we hope to make the roads safer for everyone.”

For safer driving experiences, be sure you and your car are prepared to handle road conditions, this season and beyond. ♦



ResolutionCare

Full-time RN position

Vynca is a fast-paced, fun entrepreneurial environment incredibly passionate about transforming end-of-life care. With the integration of ResolutionCare services, we are actively looking for registered nurses to provide patient-centered, home-based care for individuals with specialty palliative care needs via telemedicine with the support of an interdisciplinary team.

The ideal candidate has clinical case management experience in hospice or palliative care or a closely related field and effective communication, technology, and time management skills. This is a full time (40 hrs/wk), permanent position with an excellent benefit package. California licensure is required.

To apply, please review our website www.resolutioncare.com and then send a cover letter and resume by e-mail to info@resolutioncare.com or fax it to (707) 440-8100. Open until filled. Salary competitive and commensurate with experience.

Westhaven Community Services District, Trinidad, CA

WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR

Requires CA Grade 2 Water Treatment and Grade 1 Distribution Operator Certificates or will obtain certification within 1.5 years of hire. Part-time 18-26 hours a week position Works 3-4 days including some holidays and responds to emergencies off hours as needed. \$18-22 hour DOE, modest IRA contribution. 21 planned time off days and 12 sick days annually.

Full position description and application details available from prosenblatt.wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com.

Submit resume, copies of Operator Certificates, 2 current letters of reference and cover letter (responding to full position description) as single combined pdf to indicated email address by **January 4th 2022**.

POSITION TO BE FILLED BY JANUARY 18th 2022.



ResolutionCare

Care Coordinator (Full Time)

ResolutionCare | A Vynca Company, is a fast-paced, entrepreneurial environment ideal for candidates passionate about transforming the lives of individuals with serious illness. We are actively looking for an experienced Care Coordinator who is compassionate, detail-oriented and has excellent phone, communication, computer, and organizational skills to support our clinical team.

The ideal candidate has experience in a medical office or a closely related field. MA or CNA preferred but not required. Great for a person who enjoys multitasking, working quickly, and thrives in a team setting. This is a full time (40 hours per week), permanent position with an excellent benefit package.

To apply, please review our website www.resolutioncare.com and then send a cover letter and resume by e-mail to info@resolutioncare.com or fax it to (707) 440-8100. Open until filled. Salary competitive and commensurate with experience.

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Northcoast Children's Services

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Northcoast Children's Services provides early education and family support services to children and families from pregnancy to age 5. We offer home visiting services, infant toddler and preschool centers in a variety of locations in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

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We are currently looking for people to join our team as housekeepers, cooks, teachers, assistant teachers, center directors and home visitors.

New Hire Incentives are currently available to both full and part time employees. Full time employees who work 30 or more hours will receive an incentive of \$750. Part time employees, who work less than 30 hours will receive a \$500 incentive. Incentives are paid after 90 days of employment.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information on how to join our growing team! <https://ncsheadstart.org/employment-opportunities/>

Submit applications to:

Northcoast Children's Services

1266 9th Street, Arcata, CA 95521

For addtl info & application please call 707-822-7206 or visit our website at www.ncsheadstart.org

PETS



CBD products can help your pet cope with hectic holiday travels. *Statepoint.net*

5 Holiday Travel Tips for Pet Parents

(STATEPOINT) Traveling with pets over the holidays? Whether you're taking to the skies or the highways and byways, bringing furry friends along for the ride can sometimes be stressful for pets and people alike. Consider these tips to make the journey easier on everyone:

1. Pack right: Be sure to pack more than enough food and medication for your pet for the duration of your scheduled travels and beyond. You'll want to make sure that your pet is all set should unforeseen circumstances arise, such as weather-related travel delays. You should also bring with you a water supply for your pet, bowls for food and water, a leash, carrier, a veterinary first aid kit, and of course, your pet's favorite toys. And if you're traveling somewhere cold and snowy, pack dog boots to protect paws from snow, ice and salt.

2. Support smooth sailing: Many dogs

find travel particularly stressful. However, you can help support balanced behavior while on the road this season by giving your dog SurityPro Calm Soft Chews, a smoky bacon-flavored CBD soft chew for dogs. Formulated to support your dog's ability to cope with everyday stress, these chews can also be useful for those pet parents who are staying home during the holidays and expecting to entertain frequent guests. From Canopy Growth, the industry leader in CBD science for pets, SurityPro offers an easy way to give just the right amount of CBD to your dog. The brand partners with veterinarians, scientists and leading academic institutions to create chews and drops that support dogs' joint health and flexibility, healthy aging — including cognitive function and eye health — and products that enhance their physical and mental well-being. For more

information and directions for use, visit www.SurityPro.com.

3. Be prepared: Losing a pet is every pet parent's worst nightmare, particularly when you are in an unfamiliar location. Microchipping however, can help unintentionally separated pets and families reunite safely and happily. This is especially important for jet set pets who are often far from home.

4. Play by the rules: Understand the state-by-state rules for driving with your pet. For example, a handful of states re-

quire that dogs be harnessed in the car with a dog seatbelt. Wherever your travels take you, driving with pets harnessed or in a crate is safer for both you and pets. Pets should never distract the driver or sit in the front seat where the impact of the airbag could hurt your pet if deployed.

5. Fly smart: Flying? Your pet should be in good health before taking to the skies. If you're unsure if your pet is fit for air travel, consult your veterinarian. You

should also be aware that some airlines have banned particular breeds from flying due to breathing issues caused by the length of their snout. Know the rules and recommendations before booking your flight.

With some smart travel strategies, you can help ensure the merriest season of the year stays happy and healthy for you and your pet.



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Under general supervision, plans, organizes, coordinates, and provides direction and oversight for the community services media program. Also performs a variety of administrative functions in support of media programs and performs related work as required. The nature of the work performed requires an employee in this class to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all others contacted in the course of work. Requirements include equivalent to 12th grade plus college-level coursework in communications/media or related field and 3 years work experience in media including 1 year of supervisory experience. For more information and to apply online, go to www.ci.eureka.ca.gov

Application deadline is 5:00pm on Monday, December 27, 2021. EOE



© nicoletaionescu / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Tips to Lower Your Home's Heating Bills This Winter

(STATEPOINT) A frosty winter wonderland is fun to experience — outside. Inside is another story. By keeping your home heating system running at peak performance, you'll lower your winter utility bills and experience increased comfort.

According to North American Technician Excellence (NATE), here's how to stay toasty this winter without breaking the bank.

Get the Right Equipment

It all starts with the right heating equipment. Choosing a furnace with an ENERGY STAR logo is important, however, it's also a good idea to understand standard efficiency ratings so you can easily compare the performance of different systems.

When you need to measure the thermal efficiency of your furnace or

water heater, Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) helps determine the actual, annual, average efficiency of that piece of equipment. It measures the amount of heat delivered to your house compared to the amount of fuel that you must supply to the furnace. The U.S. Department of Energy determined that all furnaces sold in the U.S. must have a minimum AFUE of 78 percent.

The Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) is the most commonly used measure of the heating efficiency of heat pumps. Typically, a high-efficiency heat pump pays for itself in savings in a few years.

Take These Steps

A little DIY can work wonders. Follow this checklist for improved efficiency of heating equipment:

• **Check heating filters** every couple



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SOCIAL WORKER (Service Coordinator)

FT in Eureka, CA. Advocating & coord. services for individuals w/dev & intellectual disabilities. Requires BA w/exp in human services or related field. Sal range starts \$3665/mo. Exc. bene.

Visit www.redwoodcoastrc.org for more info & required docs. **EOE**

weeks and change them at least twice in the season, or as directed by the manufacturer.

- **Check and maintain insulation.**

Improperly insulated walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces drain away heat and can also lead to moisture imbalance.

- **Check ductwork for insulation and leaks.** No matter how “state of the art” your heating system is, if your ductwork is bad, it will diminish efficiency.

- **Turn down the thermostat** by a few degrees and dress more warmly.

- **Clean the furnace area.** Don’t keep chemicals or cleaning products near your heater, and don’t store anything next to it that could impede ventilation.

- **Keep vents** and returns free of obstructions.

- **Install a humidifier** to make indoor air feel warmer.

Work with Experts

Be sure all work performed on your heating equipment is carried out by a trustworthy, NATE-certified technician. Even the most efficient system can suffer if it’s not properly maintained. NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated knowledge of today’s heating and cooling systems. Better installation and service means your equipment will run at peak efficiency. Visit natex.org for additional winter tips and resources, and to find a NATE-certified technician in your area.

If you do call in a technician, prep for their arrival. You can help your technician diagnose a potential problem with your heating equipment by being prepared to share important information, such as the age, brand and model of your furnace and whether it’s been leaking, making unusual noises or emitting odors.

With a combination high-efficiency equipment, a little DIY and the help of professional expertise, you can stay warm and cozy on-budget, all season long.



Northcoast Children's Services

CENTER DIRECTORS, Arcata

Overall management of Head Start & Partnership programs. AA/BA in Child Development or related field preferred. Must meet req. for Site Supervisor permit. 3 Infant Toddler units req. F/T 40 hrs./wk. M-Fri. \$20.00-\$22.05/hr.

Open Until Filled

CENTER DIRECTORS, Eureka, McKinleyville

Overall management of a Head Start center base program. Must meet Teacher Level on Child Development Permit Matrix, plus 3 units in Administration (AA req. BA/BS Degree in Child Development or a related field preferred). Req. a min. of 2 yrs. exp. working w/ preschool children in a group setting. F/T 40 hrs./wk. Mon-Fri (8am-4:30pm); \$20.00-\$22.05/hr.

Open Until Filled.

ASSOCIATE TEACHERS, Redway, Orleans, Willow Creek

Assists teacher in the implementation & supervision of activities for preschool children. Req. a min. of 12 ECE units—including core classes—and at least 1-yr. exp. working w/ children. Redway: F/T 32 hrs./wk. Orleans: F/T 32 hrs./wk. Willow Creek: F/T 34 hrs./wk. \$17.00-\$17.85/hr. **Open Until Filled.**

TEACHERS, Eureka (Temp), Arcata

Responsible for development & implementation of classroom activities for toddler age children. Must have 12 core in ECE/CD (with 3 units in Infant/Toddler Development or Curriculum), meet Associate Teacher Level on the Child Development Permit Matrix, and have 1-yr. exp. teaching in a toddler setting. P/T positions, 28 hrs./wk. M-F \$17.50-\$19.30/hr. **Open Until Filled.**

TEAM TEACHER, Arcata

Responsible for the development & implementation of classroom activities for toddler age children. Must have 12 core in ECE/CD (with 3 units in Infant/Toddler Development or Curriculum),

meet Associate Teacher level on Child Development Permit Matrix, and have 1-yr. exp. teaching in a toddler setting. F/T 37.5 hrs./wk. M-F. \$17.75-\$18.64/hr. **Open Until Filled.**

ASSISTANT TEACHERS, McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka Fortuna

Assist teacher in the implementation & supervision of activities for preschool age children. Min. of 6-12 ECE units preferred, not required, & 6 months' exp. working w/ children. P/T 25 hrs./wk. M-Fri \$15.00-\$16.54/hr.

Open Until Filled.

INTERPRETER, Eureka

Assist in interpreting in class, at parent meetings & on home visits for children & families. Bilingual Spanish required. Must have 6 months' exp. working w/ children & families. Prefer 6-12 units in Early Childhood Education. P/T 16 hrs./wk. (8:30am-12:30 M-Thursday) \$15.00/hr. **Open Until Filled.**

HOUSEKEEPERS Eureka, McKinleyville

Perform duties required to keep site clean, sanitized & orderly. Must have exp. & knowledge of basic tools & methods utilized in custodial work & have the ability to learn & follow health & safety requirements. Arcata: P/T 5 hrs./wk. Eureka, P/T 16 hrs./wk. McKinleyville, P/T 9 hrs./wk. \$15.00/hr. Late afternoon/evening hours, flexible.

Open Until Filled.

Submit applications to Northcoast Children's Services

1266 9th Street,
Arcata, CA 95521.

For addtl info & application please call 707-822-7206 or visit our website at www.ncsheadstart.org

Earth-Friendly Holiday Gift Ideas for Outdoor Enthusiasts

(STATEPOINT) When holiday shopping for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, take the extra step of ensuring your loved ones only unwrap gifts that are earth-friendly. It all starts with reading the label on the goods you purchase.

While they've been around for decades, more consumers are becoming aware of a toxic class of chemicals called perfluorinated chemicals, often referred to as PFAS or PFCs. Because PFCs are good at resisting oil, stains, grease and water, they've become a go-to treatment for many manufacturers. In fact, PFCs are so widely used, they're found on everything from shoes and jackets to couches and food wrappers — including the many items designed for nature lovers!

The issue is that these chemicals find ways to enter the environment, the food chain and our water supply, which is bad for wildlife, the planet and human health. Because PFCs have a very hard time breaking down, they're infamously known as “forever chemicals.”

Thanks to a heightened understanding of the health issues associated with PFCs, there has been a growing sense of urgency around removing them



Statepoint.net

from consumer products. With a little care, you can holiday shop with brands that have taken earth-friendly steps, and in some cases, bounds, to try to avoid these so-called “forever chemicals.” Need some inspiration? The following gift guide includes some of the best outdoor gear designed to stand up to adventures of all kinds, and it's all eco-friendly to boot!

Cozy Footwear

Give the gift of indoor comfort outdoors with the warm, cozy Howser collection from KEEN Footwear. A hygge-worthy, “sleeping bag for feet,” their

fuzzy lining and PU cushioned insoles mean they're as cozy as house slippers, and their grippy, sturdy rubber outsoles make them a solid choice for outdoor use. The collection includes slip-ons, ankle boots and high top choices for women, men and kids — all of which are a natural fit for chilly evenings by the fire or rolling out of the tent in the morning to get the coffee brewing.

Not only is the entire collection PFC-free, options that contain leather are sourced from Leather Working Group-certified tanneries, which use processes to reduce chemical use and

their impact on watersheds, creating an environmentally preferred leather.

"Eliminating PFCs from footwear is easier said than done," says Erik Burbank, vice president of KEEN Effect, a team that guides the brand's responsible manufacturing efforts. "We've spent years working to eliminate PFCs from our products and supply chain with safe alternatives while delivering the performance people expect from KEEN. In that time, we estimate we've saved over 50,000 KGs of fluorinated chemicals from being introduced into the environment. As part of our Detox the Planet initiative, we continue to push for ways to put the environment first."

To learn more, visit www.keenfootwear.com.

Layer Up

Trekkers and campers know that weather is unpredictable and that makes layering essential. Now, they can do so with both performance and sustainability in mind. All of Houdini's sportswear apparel is PFC-free. Plus, many of its garments are made from recycled materials, and are either recyclable or completely biodegradable. Keep your loved ones warm and prepared for anything by checking out the Swedish brand's base layers, mid layers, outerwear and accessories.

Pack Smart

From snowshoe backpacks to hiking backpacks to packs designed specifically for trail runners, the full line-up of outdoor gear offered by Deuter is highly functional and contains no PFCs. Instead, the brand relies on Durable Water Repellent treatments that are not harmful to people or the planet.

The best outdoor gear protects the nature it celebrates. This holiday season, shop mindfully for outdoor enthusiasts.



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American Pecan Council

Hearty, Wholesome Winter Meals

(FAMILY Features) Seeking comfort from the cold in the form of a wholesome meal is a perfect way to cap off a day with loved ones. During the winter months when brisk temperatures chill you to the bone, warming up with hearty dishes at the family table can bring everyone together.

Full of seasonal flavors with top-notch taste, Pecan-Crusted Pork Tenderloin offers a delicious main course you don't have to feel guilty about. This easy yet elegant entree puts a unique spin on a dinnertime staple thanks to a crunchy pecan crust.

With cheddar and ricotta cheeses, sour cream and cavatappi noodles, this Mac and Cheese with Pecan Breadcrumbs is an extra creamy, creative twist on the kid-friendly classic. Pair this family favorite with the pork tenderloin for an easy weeknight combination that little ones can help with in the kitchen by stirring together the cheesy goodness.

This family dinner is made possible with tasty pecans, which are among the lowest in carbs and highest in fiber compared to other tree nuts, helping you stay fuller longer. As a nutrient-dense powerhouse, they have 3 grams of plant-based protein and 3 grams of fiber per 1-ounce serving with 12 grams of "good" monounsaturated fat and only 2 grams of saturated fat. Essential nutrients like thiamin, zinc, copper and manganese – a mineral that's essential for metabolism and bone health – mean you can feel good about serving pecan-infused dishes to your loved ones.

Visit americanpecan.com to find more winter weeknight recipe inspiration.

Pecan-Crusted Pork Tenderloin

Total time: 35 minutes

Servings: 6

1 pork tenderloin (about 1 ½ pounds)
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste

½ cup brown sugar, divided
2 tablespoons soy sauce, divided
2 teaspoons minced garlic
½ cup pecan pieces
¼ cup pineapple juice
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Preheat oven to 400 F and lightly grease large baking dish. Season pork tenderloin with salt and pepper, to taste; set aside.

In small bowl, stir ¼ cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon soy sauce and minced garlic. Spread mixture over pork.

Press pecan pieces into brown sugar mixture on pork. Bake, uncovered, 20 minutes.

In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, combine remaining brown sugar, remaining soy sauce, pineapple juice and Dijon mustard. Bring mixture to boil; reduce to simmer 3-5 minutes then remove from heat.

Slice pork, spoon sauce over top and serve.



American Pecan Council

Mac and Cheese with Pecan Breadcrumbs

Total time: 50 minutes

Servings: 6

8 ounces cavatappi pasta
1 tablespoon butter
1 block (8 ounces) cheddar cheese
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raw pecan pieces
15 ounces part-skim ricotta cheese
4 tablespoons sour cream
1 teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground pepper
1 large egg, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In salted boiling water, cook pasta ac-

cording to package instructions. Drain, reserving $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pasta cooking water. Return pasta to pot and stir in butter.

Using box grater, shred cheddar cheese.

Using food processor, process $\frac{1}{4}$ cup shredded cheese with pecans to coarse breadcrumb consistency.

Add remaining cheddar cheese, ricotta, sour cream, salt and pepper to warm pasta. Stir until thoroughly combined. Add egg; stir. Add reserved pasta water to loosen mixture; stir until smooth.

Pour into buttered 9-inch square or round casserole dish and top evenly with pecan topping.

Bake 30 minutes. ♦

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Gift Spring Blooms for the Holiday

by Melinda Myers

GIVE THE GIFT of spring this winter to gardeners and non-gardeners alike. A pot of tulips, daffodils or other spring flowering bulbs is sure to brighten a dreary winter day and elevate the recipient's mood.

Spring flowering bulbs need 12 to 15 weeks of temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering. This happens naturally in areas with cold winters. Bulbs are planted in the fall, receive the chill they need, and add welcome color to the spring garden.

Those in warmer climates, typically zones 8, 9 and 10, need a different approach. In those areas, low-chill bulbs that don't need as long a cold period or pre-cooled bulbs are grown. The pre-cooled bulbs, also sold as pre-chilled, have received the needed cold period and can be grown like annuals.

No matter where you garden, spring-

flowering bulbs can be chilled in a spare refrigerator. Keep bulbs away from apples and pears. These fruits give off ethylene gas, a natural hormone that does not harm people, but can hasten ripening and interfere with flowering when bulbs are stored in the same refrigerator compartment. Check the pots occasionally and water when needed to keep the soil slightly moist, but not soggy wet.

Some friends and family may appreciate a DIY bulb forcing kit as their gift.



Give a gift of Months of Bloom, pre-planted bulbs to brighten up the recipient's home during the winter months or all year long. Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply Company/gardeners.com

Spring flowering bulbs, potting mix and a container with drainage holes are all that is needed. Provide directions for assembly, suggestions for providing the cold treatment if needed and proper care.

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8			9	1			6
			6	2			
4			8	5			3
9		1				5	4
7	6		5	8		3	1

www.sudoku.com

Others may prefer a gift that requires minimal care like Gardener's Supply Company's Months of Bloom. Order once and these pre-planted bulb gardens are delivered to the recipient monthly for three, six or 12 months. Just water when the potting mix starts to dry and enjoy watching the spring-flowering bulbs sprout, grow and flower.

Keep spring-flowering bulb gardens in a cool, bright location to extend their bloom time. Once the plants are done blooming, you can add them to the compost pile. For those that prefer to enjoy them a second season and beyond, provide some post-flowering care. Remove the faded flowers and move the container to a sunny window. Keep watering thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to prevent root rot and apply a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

Once the leaves turn yellow and die or the soil in the garden warms and the danger of frost has passed, you can move them into the garden. Tulips and hyacinths perform best in sunny areas with well-drained soils. These two bulbs tend to flourish for a year or two and then produce few or no flowers. Keep that in mind as you plan for the future. Daffodils and grape hyacinths will grow in sun or shade and a variety of soil types. These tend to be long lived as they grow and spread over time.

It may be two years before you have flowers but it's a great way to extend the enjoyment of a holiday gift.



Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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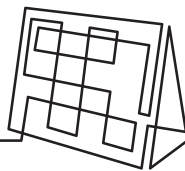


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POLITICS, PEOPLE AND ART

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Calendar

Dec. 14 - Dec. 28, 2021



Virtual World

ARTS & CULTURE

Equity Arcata's Community Book Club.

Third Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Alia Dunphy and Meridith Oram discuss Adrienne Marie Brown's book, *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. On Zoom. Register online. www.equityarcata.com.

On the Same Page Book Club.

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Online book club that meets on the first Wednesday of the month on Zoom. Sign up using the Google form at www.forms.gle/bAs-jdQ7hKGqEgJKj7.

Reading in Place - An Online Reading Group.

Saturdays, 1 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Sign up online for a Zoom meeting invite and the week's reading for discussion. www.forms.gle/zKymPvcDFDG7BJEP9.

Shelter n Play. Fridays, 6 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Public group on Facebook made up of locals. Open mic for all skill levels, all styles, everyone's welcome to watch or perform. Sign-ups Wednesdays at noon. www.facebook.com/groups/224856781967115.

The Writers Lounge via Zoom.

Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. A writing workshop geared toward stand-up and comedy. Zoom Room: 857 4217 6054. Password: writers. Join Zoom Meeting www.uso2web.zoom.us/j/85742176054?pwd=dWp4UGVqaUVYQowzekVnZkZoVIMzZz09.

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

English Express: An English Language

Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. This class offers pronunciation, speaking, reading, writing,

vocabulary, verb conjugations and common expressions. All levels welcome. Join anytime. Free. www.englishexpress-sempowered.com.

Humboldt Grace Fire Recovery Project

Auction. Local art, destination getaways, beauty products, tools, and more. Raising funds to help communities rebuild with vouchers from local companies for fire victims who are land-owners, homesteaders, small business owners, small farmers and/or a local organizations in the Emerald Triangle. Free. lele@humboldtgrace.org. www.event.auctria.com/69ba905f-e1c6-42cb-b53c-64a81e42ce67/. (707) 672-4254.

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain.

Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. California State Parks' North Coast Redwoods District is broadcasting programs featuring tall trees and rugged seas from state parks via Facebook. Free. www.facebook.com/NorthCoastRedwoods.

MARZ Project. Tuesdays-Fridays, 12-5 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Humboldt and Del Norte county youth ages 12 to 26 learn to express themselves creatively in visual art, audio and video production. All MARZ students have free access to equipment, software and training. Meets via Zoom by appointment. Free. marzproject@inkpeople.org. (707) 442-8413.

Sistahood. Saturdays, 9:30-11 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. For women teenagers and older on Zoom, to build healthy relationships and strengthen ties through validation and affirmation. Music from 9:30 a.m., open conversation from 9:45 a.m., meditation with the Sista Prayer Warriors from 10:45 a.m.

Ujima Parent Peer Support. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. For BIPOC families. See the HC Black Music and Arts Association

Facebook page for more information. hcbblackmusicnarts@gmail.com.

Virtual Junior Rangers. Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. North Coast Redwoods District of California State Parks offers kids' programs and activities about coast redwoods, marine protected areas and more, plus Junior Ranger badges. Register online and watch live. www.bit.ly/NCRDVirtualJuniorRanger.

Volunteer Orientation Food for People.

Mondays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 3-4 p.m. Help fight hunger and improve nutrition in the community. Visit the website to be invited to a Zoom orientation. Free. volunteer@foodforpeople.org. www.foodforpeople.org/volunteering. (707) 445-3166 ext. 310.

Curry County

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Brookings-Harbor Farmers Market.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Brookings-Harbor Farmers Market, 15786 U.S. Highway 101, South Brookings. Produce, artisan foods, baked goods, grass-fed beef, crafts and more. Look for the big white tents. Open year-round, rain or shine.

Christmas Variety Show. Sat., Dec. 18, 2-5 p.m. Chetco Grange Community Center, 97895 Shopping Center Ave., Brookings. Presented by Tiger Lily and other local musicians to benefit the Brookings Harbor Community Helpers (BHCH). Refreshments provided by Fred Meyers donation.

Drive-Thru Santa. Sat., Dec. 18, 3-5 p.m. Port of Gold Beach, 29891 Harbor Way. Join Gold Beach Main Street for a meet and greet with Santa. The first 300 children will receive stuffed stockings and stuffed animals. In front of Jerry's Jet Boat office.

Nature's Coastal Holiday Festival of Lights. 5-9 p.m. Azalea State Park,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 →

MY NAME IS NALA7

German Shepherd Dog.
Puppy Male Small.



MY NAME IS CACHI

Domestic Short Hair.
Kitten Male Small.



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Brookings, Brookings. Holiday light show going thru Christmas. More than 2 million lights and over 90 2D- and 3D-sculptures. \$3, free for kids under 12.

Del Norte County

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Drive-Thru Christmas Light Display. 5-9 p.m. Del Norte County Fairgrounds, 421 US-101, Crescent City. Enter at North Gate. \$10/car.

Indian Tacos. Sat., Dec. 18, 5-9 p.m. Del Norte County Fairgrounds, 421 US-101, Crescent City. Presented by Wild River 4-H. Dinner price includes admission to drive-thru Christmas light display. \$20, \$30/couple, \$50/family of four.

Ocean Air Farms Farm Stand. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Ocean Air Farms, 2420 Moorehead Road, Crescent City. Roadside farm stand offering home-grown organic veggies and produce.

Trinity County

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

A Kinder Kind of Christmas. Wed., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m. Trinity Alps Performing Arts Center, 101 Arbuckle Ct., Weaverville. Kinder Kids Montessori invites you to join them for light bites, local beer and wine and refreshing seasonal beverages.

Tickets on eventbrite.com. \$10. www.tapaonline.org/.

The Polar Express Experience. Sat., Dec. 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Historic Downtown Weaverville, Weaverville. Starting at Mountain Goat Kids and Tammie's Books at 11 a.m. for a photo booth and reading of *The Polar Express*. Then it moves to Trinity County Movie Theatre to watch the movie at noon, collecting treats from participating businesses on the walk downtown to the theater. Jammies are recommended. (530) 623-6101.

Humboldt County

ARTS & CULTURE

Autumn Run Premiere. Wed., Dec. 15, 5 p.m. Minor Theatre, 1013 H St., Arcata. Filmed at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center, the production features local writers, director, producers, actors, designers, film crew, film editor and musicians. Proof of vaccination and mask required. Tickets online. \$20.

Benefit Dance Party with Home Cookin'. Fri., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. Arcata Playhouse, 1251 Ninth St. Dance to Home Cookin'. Cocktails and light food fare available. Tickets online. Masks and proof of vaccination required. Limited to 50 people per night. \$15. www.arcataplayhouse.org.

Dances of Brazil. Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. Redwood Raks World Dance Studio, 824 L St., Arcata. Learn Brazilian dances with instructors Rocío Cristal and María Vanderhorst. All levels. Limited to five people. Register online. \$15. talavera.rocio@gmail.com.

Elf Cheer and Sing Along. Sat., Dec. 18, 5 p.m. Eureka Theater, 612 F St. Sing along with Buddy and his friends, learn fun new facts about the North Pole, Elf culture and every Buddy else. Fun for the whole family. Local beers, wines, ciders, cocktails and concessions for all ages available. Masks required. \$6. www.theeurekatheater.org.

Grand Reopening Movie: White Christmas (1954). Fri., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. Eureka Theater, 612 F St. Enjoy this heartwarming holiday movie in Eureka's movie palace. Local beers, wines, ciders, cocktails and concessions for all ages available. Masks required. \$6. www.theeurekatheater.org.

Joyful, Joyfull! Sat., Dec. 18, 5-6:30 p.m. Morris Graves Museum of Art, 636 F St., Eureka. Trinity Ballet Academy presents favorite selections from its 21 years of Christmas performances. Reservations required. Please call after Nov. 1. Free. www.humboldtarts.org. (707) 839-1816.

NCD: The Nutcracker. Fri., Dec. 17, 7-8:30 p.m., Sat., Dec. 18, 2-3:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 19, 2-3:30 p.m. Arkley Center for the Performing Arts, 412 G St., Eureka. North Coast Dance presents the family holiday tradition. Masks are required at all times. Both children and adults must be fully vaccinated or show proof of negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours. reception.ncd@gmail.com. (707) 442-7779.

Storywalk. Historic Old Town Eureka, Second Street. Stroll along and window shop with your child as you read *The Night Before the Night before Christmas* by local author Natasha Wing. The pages of the book will be displayed in store windows along Second Street. www.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 27→

MY NAME IS HUTCH

Mixed Breed male,
1 year old and 74 pounds.



MY NAME IS OLIVETTE

4 months old, spayed female,
domestic short hair, orange tabby.



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Calendar

← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

eurekamainstreet.org.

The Nutcracker. Sat., Dec. 18, 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 19, 2 p.m. Van Duzer Theatre, Humboldt State University, Arcata. The holiday classic presented by the Sundance Ballet Company. Masks are required to be worn at all times, for all ages. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to the event required. \$15-\$20. www.danceeureka.com.

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Arcata Marsh Birding Tour w/Michael Morris. Sat., Dec. 25, 8:30-11 a.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, South I Street. Join Morris at the end of South I Street (Klopp Lake) for this Christmas morning bird walk. Bring your binoculars. COVID-19 participation guidelines online. RSVP by text. Free. thebook@reninet.com. www.rras.org/home.aspx. (707) 499-1247.

Arcata Marsh Birding Tour. Sat., Dec. 18, 8:30-11 a.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, South I Street. Join Karsteadt at the end of South I Street (Klopp Lake) to see shorebird, waterbird and terrestrial species. Bring your binoculars. COVID-19 participation guidelines online. RSVP by text. Free. thebook@reninet.com. www.rras.org/home.aspx. 707-499-1247.

Arcata Plaza Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Every Saturday Humboldt County farmers bring their non-GMO bounty, rain or shine. EBT accepted and Market Match is offered. Information and COVID rules online. Free. info@northcoastgrowersassociation.org. www.northcoastgrowersassociation.org. (707) 441-9999.

Beginning Birdwatching & Project

FeederWatch. Sat., Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-noon. Jacoby Creek School, 1617 Old Arcata Road, Bayside. Meet at the Jacoby Creek School Garden. Drop-in anytime. Learn about birds in an informal, family-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →



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friendly setting. Bring binoculars and be prepared to wear a mask and practice social distancing. COVID-19 participation guidelines online. Free. daseeger@gmail.com. www.rras.org/home.aspx.

Christmas Brass Bands. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. Ferndale Main Street, Ferndale. Members of the Scotia Band (a saxophone quartet and brass ensemble) stroll Main Street for your holiday entertainment playing traditional Christmas favorites.

Community Live Nativity. Tue., Dec. 21, 6-8 p.m. First Covenant Church Eureka, 2526 J St. Have a COVID-safe experience of eight scenes (including live animals) depicting the story of Christmas from your car. From Buhne Street, turn south onto K Street, then right onto Carson Street, then right onto J Street. Narration available. Free.

Eureka Waterfront Birding Tour. Sun., Dec. 19, 9-11 a.m. Eureka Waterfront, Foot of Del Norte Street. Join leader Ralph Bucher for guided birding along the Eureka Waterfront Trail, a flat, paved, wheelchair accessible trail. COVID-19 participation guidelines online. RSVP by text. Free. thebook@reninet.com. www.rras.org/home.aspx. (707) 499-1247.

Ferndale Lighted Tractor Parade. Sun., Dec. 19, 6 p.m. Ferndale Main Street, Ferndale. Local farmers and ranchers parade fancifully decorated tractors, tractor-drawn wagons and horse-drawn floats down main street at the 29th annual event. Follow COVID-19 guidelines. Live stream available on Facebook.

Fire Relief Donation Drive. Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. Arcata Veterans Hall, 1425 J St. Updated list of needs and a monetary donation site online. legionprograms@gmail.com. www.battlenhomefronts.org. (707) 610-6619.

FOAM Marsh Tour w/Alex Stillman and Paul Johnson. Sat., Dec. 25, 2 p.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Interpretive Center, 569 S. G St. Meet leaders Stillman and Johnson outside

the center for a 90-minute, rain-or-shine walk. Masks are required inside the building but are optional outdoors. 826-2359.

FOAM Marsh Tour w/Sharon Levy. Sat., Dec. 18, 2 p.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Interpretive Center, 569 S. G St. Meet leader Levy in the lobby for a 90-minute, rain-or-shine walk focusing on marsh history, wastewater treatment and/or ecology. Masks are required inside the building but are optional outdoors. Free. (707) 826-2359.

Fortuna Holiday Dazzle Decorating Contest. Sundays. City of Fortuna, Various city locations. All Fortuna residences and business locations within city limits are eligible to win cash and prizes. Houses or businesses must enter online by Dec. 12, remain decorated until voting ends on Dec 25 and be visible from the street. www.fortunachamber.com/dazzle2021.

Holiday Open House. Sat., Dec. 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sequoia Humane Society, 6073 Loma Ave., Eureka. Learn more about Sequoia Humane Society's services and volunteer opportunities. Goodie bags, door raffle, photo opportunities (\$5 suggested donation) and discounted pet gear. Please bring Holiday Supply Drive donations for the pets, if you can.

Holiday Sunday Art Market. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Featuring local art vendors, live music, downtown businesses, the Awesome Arcata Coupon Book and fun holiday activities.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. Mondays. Countywide, Locations throughout Humboldt County, Humboldt. The Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsmen Association's annual competition. Cash and prizes awarded to the biggest hatchery steelhead caught Dec. 18, 2021 through Feb. 28, 2022. Register online. \$40, \$25 youth 16 and under. www.madriversteelhead-derby.com.

Pawlday Meal and Blessing Bags Giveaway. Sat., Dec. 18, 3 p.m. Old Town

Gazebo, Second and F streets, Eureka. A free hot meal and blessing bags for the homeless community and their pets. While supplies last.

Samoa Dunes and Wetlands Guided Walk. Third Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Samoa Dunes & Wetlands Conservation Area, Coper Lane, Arcata. Join Friends of the Dunes naturalist for a hike on loose sand and up and down some moderate slopes. Call or email for required reservation and directions. Free. info@friendsofthedunes.org. www.friendsofthedunes.org/. (707) 444-1397.

Trivia Night. Every other Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. The Madrone Taphouse, 421 Third St., Eureka. Reel Genius Trivia hosts. Free. www.reelgeniustrivia.com.

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Tree Skirt Replica. Mondays. Redwood Art Association Gallery, 603 F St., Eureka. Replica of the tree skirt by members from Moonstone Quilters, Eel River Valley Quilt Guild and the Redwood Empire Quilters Guild for the 2021 Capitol Christmas tree.

NIGHTLIFE

Sunday Open Mic. Sundays, 9 p.m. Savage Henry Comedy Club, 415 Fifth St., Eureka. Hosted by Eric Fitzgerald. No cover. www.savagehenrymagazine.com.

Mendocino County

ARTS & CULTURE

The Holiday, Small Works Show. Mondays. Willits Center For the Arts, 71 E Commercial St. This year's collection of 30 artists covers paintings, sculpture, fabric arts, handmade ornaments and more.

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Christmas Sing-Along. Sun., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. The First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, 514 W Church St. The congregation sings favorite Christmas carols. All are welcome to join in and sing. For more information, visit www.fpcukiah.org.

Festival of Lights 2021. Fridays-Sundays, 5-7 p.m. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 North Highway 1, Fort Bragg. The gardens transform into a spectacular show of glittering color. Masks are required indoors and outdoors regardless of vaccination status. Please dress for winter weather and stay on lighted paths. No dogs, children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Purchase tickets in advance online. \$10 (purchase in advance), free for kids 16 and under. www.gardenbythesea.org/calendar/fol.

Fort Bragg Farmers Market. Wednesdays,

2-4:30 p.m. Fort Bragg Farmers Market, N Franklin St. & E Laurel St. Seasonal fruits, vegetables, organic and free range beef and pork and eggs, wild-caught local fish and seafood, artisan goat cheese, sweets, breads, flowers and plants. Plus, hot food, live music.

Historic Walking Tours of Mendocino.

Saturdays, Sundays. Guest House Museum, 343 N Main St., Fort Bragg. Join local history experts on a two-hour walk through Mendocino's famous Historic District. Book via email. Face coverings required. Well-behaved dogs allowed but must remain outside at some stops. \$50

for up to four people, \$75 for party of six. tours@KelleyHouseMuseum.org.

It's A Wonderful Life Radio Play. Thu., Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 19, 2 p.m. Willits Community Theatre and Performing Arts Center, 37 W Van Ln. An all-ages staged version of Frank Capra's famed heartwarming film that takes place in New York City where the story is being broadcast live over the WBFR airwaves on Christmas Eve, 1946. Tickets online and at the door. Masks and proof of vaccination required. \$20

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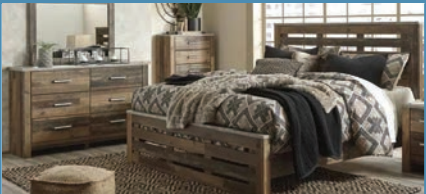


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Calendar

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(Fri./Sat. shows), \$15 (Thurs./Sun. shows).
www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Monday Mushroom Walks. Mondays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, 18220 North Highway 1, Fort Bragg. Take a guided tour of the MCBG Mushroom Collection. The Gardens is home to more than 160 species of wild mushrooms during fall and winter. Reservations and mask required. www.gardenbythesea.org.

Ukiah Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. Alex Thomas Plaza, School and Clay streets, Ukiah.

Lake County

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Lakeport Blizzard. 6 p.m. Library Park, 225 Park Street, Lakeport. Enjoy lights, music and snow falling courtesy of the The Lakeport Main Street Association. Afterward, enjoy a bite to eat at in town and then look at the Christmas lights around town using the Light of the Night Map found at www.lakeportmainstreet.com. Rain cancels this event.

Lakeport Farmers Market. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin St., Lakeport. Rain or shine.

Lakeport Lighted Christmas Cruise. Fri., Dec. 17, 6 p.m. Downtown Lakeport, Main Street. Join the Lakeport Firefighters for the Lighted Christmas Cruise. The parade starts from the Lakeport Elementary School and cruises the city streets until it reaches Lakeport Boulevard and returns to the school back down Main Street.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Sat., Dec. 18, 9 a.m. Downtown Kelseyville, Main Street. A nationally coordinated ceremony with Arlington National Cemetery where the public gathers to watch the flag ceremony and place wreaths of remembrance upon the graves of veterans. Girl Scout Troop #10145 along with other youth groups will participate in the ceremony. At the Kelseyville Cemetery. ♦



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HOME COUNTRY

By Slim Randles



WE ALMOST BELIEVED we had a crime wave going on, which perplexed us all, especially since it's Christmas and all.

It all began when old man Ortega's rooster disappeared. He reported it to the police, too, who thought this neighborhood alarm clock finally met with a dissatisfied customer who was now gleefully making dumplings.

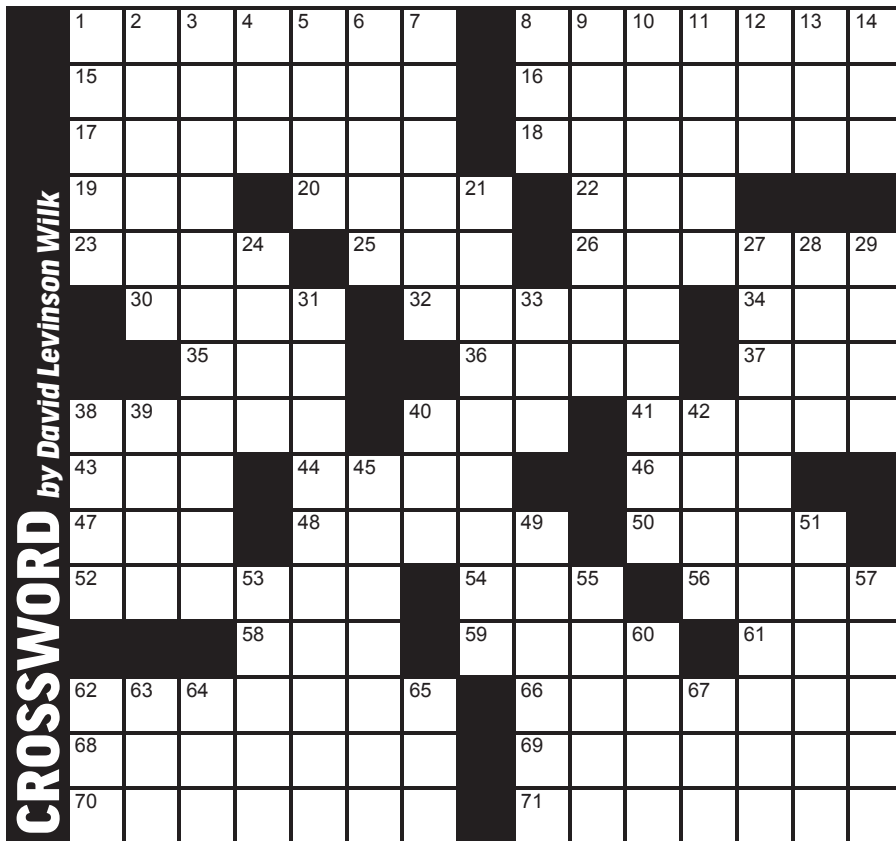
The police said as much to Ortega, and the old man wanted to know what the police were going to do about it. Well, since it had been almost a week since they'd had a complaint come in, the chief sent young Glen around the neighborhood asking chicken questions. Everyone denied ending ol' Doodle's career ... when they finished laughing. Old man Ortega got a copy of the report.

Ortega had his suspicions, of course. There was one neighbor lady who had once complained about the rooster to Ortega, and he had defended to her very face his rooster's right to crow. She then asked if he couldn't get ol' Doodles operated on, like they do to dogs, and get his doodler clipped so he'd be singing blanks, as it were.

Ortega hotly replied that anyone who would deliberately maim an American rooster would steal sheep. Later on, he apologized and offered to buy her some ear plugs. She passed on the ear plug offer, but poured him a cup of coffee and that seemed to be that.

But still, ol' Doodles was gone, and there was no denying that. We finally put two and two together when another neighbor caught a coyote going over the fence with one of his hens, but we always wondered about that doodler-snipping operation. We'll have to ask Doc about it. ♦

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LOW pH — Answers in the next edition

ACROSS

1. Yes-men
8. Removes (oneself)
15. Small bone
16. Like some sunbathers
17. Stimulated, as an appetite
18. Lease period, often
19. Boston landmark, with "the"
20. Take __ (doze)
22. Bldg. coolers
23. " __ only known!"
25. RR stop
26. Nothing: It.
30. Othello, e.g.
32. Doolittle played by Audrey Hepburn
34. Winning "Hollywood Squares" line
35. SSW's opposite
36. And others: Abbr.
37. Came out ahead
38. Under
40. "A revolution is not a dinner party" writer
41. "Ode to Psyche" poet
43. Box (in)
44. JFK-to-TLV option
46. Be nosy
47. "Annabel Lee" poet's monogram
48. Gets up
50. Pilgrimage to Mecca
52. Trumpeter whose statue stands in New Orleans' French Quarter

54. Jenna's "The Office" role
56. Rocket
58. Rebellious Turner
59. Choir offering
61. "No seats left," in short
62. Toyota model
66. Manage to find
68. Theatrical road companies
69. Eightfold
70. Like a sheer nightie
71. Almost spills

DOWN

1. Vinegar quality ... or a quality of this puzzle's theme
2. Hindu retreat
3. Maiden of Greek myth who's a total poseur?
4. Dah's counterpart in Morse code
5. Numerical prefix
6. Hidden valleys
7. Unruffled
8. From __ Z
9. Windfall
10. Speed meas. in Europe that's unlike anywhere else on the continent?
11. "Family Ties" mother
12. Bridal page word
13. Org. with the Precheck program
14. Div. of a former union
21. Faintly written Hebrew letter?

24. Prefix with sphere
27. Reaction to novelist Conrad after being informed he wrote in English, his third language?
28. Tugboat's call
29. Many ages
31. Direct Alice's sitcom husband elsewhere?
33. "Am __ blame?"
38. Where the Mets once met
39. Get well
40. More, in Madrid
42. Pitching stats

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45. More microscopic
49. Final words
51. Rapper with the 2002 #1 hit "Always on Time"
53. Kind of tray
55. 2250, to Claudius
57. Boxing ring borders
60. Grp. joined by Albania and Croatia in 2009
62. Short change?
63. Neighbor of Wash.
64. Hatchery supply
65. Sch. with a Phoenix campus
67. Big chunk of Eur.

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